

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/784,468
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT
NON-FINAL**

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) for the packaging of an object, said wrapping packaging machine comprising

- ~~a~~ an endless track (20, 50) disposed mainly around ~~the~~ an object (11) to be packaged and having a circumference,
- at least one film feed device (40) carrying at least one wrapping film roll (41) for wrapping a plastic film band (42) around the object (11) to be packaged, and
- a drive (21, 30) for moving the film feed device (40) around the object (11) to be packaged,

characterized in that

- the drive (21, 30) of the wrapping packaging machine (10) comprises
 - at least one flexible elongated body (30), ~~preferably a flexible rod, band, chain or equivalent~~ having a length which is part of the length of the circumference of the track, and
 - at least ~~one~~ two drive element elements (22, 26), ~~such as a drive wheel (22), an endless band (26) or equivalent~~ for moving the flexible elongated body (30) along the track (20), and

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- that at least one film feed device (40) is connected to the elongated body (30) either directly or via at least one connecting element (53), for moving it around the object (11) to be packaged.

2. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in

- that it comprises two or more film feed devices (40) connected to the flexible elongated body (30) on the track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine, and
- that the wrapping film rolls (41) of the film feed devices (40) comprise wrapping film rolls (41) containing similar or dissimilar plastic film bands.

3. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine is of a loop-shaped, ~~preferably circular or oval form or a rectangular track with rounded corners.~~

4. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the plane passing

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through the track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine is preferably vertical or horizontal.

5. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible elongated body (30) on the track (20) is made of ~~flexible material, such as plastic or rubber,~~ adaptable to the shape of the track.

6. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the drive wheel (22) in the track (20) is a friction wheel for moving the flexible elongated body (30) on the track by friction.

7. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized ~~in that~~ in that the flexible elongated body (30) on the track (20) is a chain adaptable to the shape of the track.

8. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in

- that the drive wheel (22) in the track (20) is a toothed wheel,

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- and that the flexible elongated body (30) on the track (20) is provided with a toothing (32) corresponding to the teeth of the toothed wheel and engaging the toothed wheel.

9. (withdrawn) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in

- that the loop-shaped track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine (10) can be opened to allow the track to be placed so that it runs through a ring-shaped object (11) to be packaged,
- that the elongated body (30) can be moved on the loop-shaped track (20) to wrap a plastic film band around the ring-shaped object (11).

10. (withdrawn) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the openable track (20) having the shape of a closed loop of the wrapping packaging machine (10) has been formed from two parts (20a, 20b), at least one of which can be moved sideways perpendicularly to the plane of the track.

11. (withdrawn) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in

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- that the openable track (20) having the shape of a closed loop of the wrapping packaging machine (10) has been formed from two parts (20a, 20b) with a joint (25) between them,
- and that at least one (20a) of the two parts of the track (20) can be turned sideways about the joint (25) so that the planes passing through the track parts form an acute angle between themselves.

12. (withdrawn) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the wrapping packaging machine (10) comprises means (50) for removing the elongated body (30a) from the loop-shaped track (20) and/or for feeding the elongated body (30b) onto the loop-shaped track when at least one (20a) of the track parts has been moved or turned aside.

13. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the wrapping packaging machine (10) comprises two tracks (20, 50), of which a first track (20) carries the flexible elongated body (30) while a second track (50) carries at least one carriage (51) provided with at least one film feed device (40).

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14. (currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 13, characterized in

- that the first, ~~outer~~ track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine (10) is an outer track which carries the ~~elongated~~ elongated body (30), which is supported by bearing rollers (23), while the second, ~~inner~~ track is an inner track consisting of a guide rail (50) which supports the carriage (51) of the film feed device (40),
- and that the flexible elongated body (30) and the carriage (51) are connected together by a connecting element, ~~such as a connecting rod (53).~~

15. (withdrawn - currently amended) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the wrapping packaging machine (10) consists of an aggregate comprising a conveyor (60) and, in conjunction with it, two wrapping packaging machines (10a, 10b) performing wrapping operations in different planes, the wrapping tracks (20a, 20b) of said machines being ~~preferably~~ perpendicular to each other.

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16. (new) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible elongated body (30) is a flexible rod, band or chain.

17. (new) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that the at least two drive elements (22, 26) are a drive wheel (22) or an endless band (26).

18. (new) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 3, characterized in that the track (20) of the wrapping packaging machine is of a circular or oval form or a rectangular track with rounded corners.

19. (new) A wrapping packaging machine (10) according to claim 3, characterized in that the connecting element is a connecting rod (53).